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MEMORANDUM FOR: Personnel Concerned

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During our time of struggle, with budget problems and deficit issues. It seems to me that any reasonable person could see that the Farm Service Agency, which is already in place at every local level, would be the best suited agency to handle the issues of Premise Registration and Animal Identification. The agency has contacts already in place to support the initiative. The agency already has an established address library plus the Maps that depict the producer's farm. Additionally the agency is implementing the GIS Geographic information system (GIS) software that will allow for the use of digital Common Land Unit (CLU) layers that can be accessed by computer and not in the local office making it available to all agencies that need to access the information. Each producer already has a local Farm ID number that could be easily associated or converted to comply with any national number that may be required. Producers are already working with the local FSA offices for other programs and most have a familiarity with the staff. It would be easy for the existing offices to implement this program.

Advantages of using existing Farm Service Agency:

1. Already established at the local level
2. Less start up cost because of existing agency
3. Fewer personnel needed because of existing personnel in place
4. Local FSA offices already have an extensive address library
5. Local FSA offices already have farms identified and drawn on existing maps that will be part of the GIS program.
6. Producers already deal with the FSA on a daily basis
7. Outreach efforts could be executed quickly because of existing operations
8. Who better that the local County Executive Director that already knows several of the local producers to implement such a program
9. The local County Office Committee consists of members of the Local Administrative Areas elected by the producers would be very instrumental in the identification process.
10. The local FSA office has an established network with the local disaster organizations.

Bottom line is that in this nation's time of cut back's it just doesn't make much sense to the average citizen to add another agency within the USDA when a complete and fully functional agency (Farm Service Agency) already exists that could easily handle this mission. The cost associated with a new agency would only mean further cuts to existing agencies when the money could be better spent utilizing or upgrading current operations.

Sincerely,

Guy Roden